

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic apparatus configured to be powered by an AC power source or alternatively by a second power source different from said AC power source comprising:

5 a receiver configured to receive information from an external device; and

10 a controller configured to start supplying power from the second power source based on the information, received from the external device via the receiver, indicating the electronic apparatus is to be supplied power from the second power source.

2. An electronic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 an external power supply input portion configured to receive power from said AC power source, and

20 wherein the controller starts supplying power to the electronic apparatus from the external power supply input portion based on the information, received from the external device via the receiver, indicating the electronic apparatus is to be supplied power from the external power supply input portion.

25 3. An electronic apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a timer configured to maintain a time, wherein the information includes start time information indicating the time that the controller is to start supplying

power to the electronic apparatus from the second power source, said controller supplying power from the battery when the time of the timer reaches to the start time.

5 4. An electronic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the information includes end time information indicating the time when the controller us to stop supplying power to the electronic apparatus from the second power supply, and the controller stops supplying power to the electronic apparatus from the second power supply and starts supplying power to the electronic apparatus from the external power supply input portion when the time of the timer reaches to the end time.

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15 5. An electronic apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the controller charges the second power supply based on the information which includes second power supply charge information indicating charging the second power supply when the electronic apparatus is supplied power from the external power supply input portion.

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6. An electronic apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said second power supply comprises a battery.

7. An electronic apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said battery is portable with and located internally of said electronic apparatus.

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8. A server communicating with a computer and a power company, comprising:

a receiver for receiving power load information transmitted from the power company;

5 a control unit for determining information indicating that the computer is to be switched from being powered by power from said power company to being powered from a second power source contained in the computer based on the received power load information; and

10 a transmitter for transmitting the determined information to the computer.

9. A server according to claim 8, wherein the control unit further determines information indicating the computer is to be supplied power from said commercial power supply based on the received power 15 load information.

10. A server according to claim 9, wherein the determined information includes start time information indicating the time that the second power source is to start supplying power to the computer.

20 11. A server according to claim 10, wherein the determined information includes stop time information indicating the time that the second power source is to stops supplying power to the computer.

25 12. A server according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for detecting when power load included in the power load information reaches a predetermined

threshold value; and

5 wherein the transmitter transmits the determined information indicating that the computer is to be supplied power from the second power source when it is detected that the power load reaches the predetermined threshold value.

13. A server according to claim 8, wherein said second power supply comprises a battery.

10 14. A server according to claim 13, wherein said battery is portable with and located internally of said computer.

15 15. A power management system comprising:
a server connected to a first network and a second network; and

15 a computer, including a portable power source, said computer connected to the second network, wherein the server comprises:

20 a transmitter for transmitting control information indicating the computer is to be supplied power from the portable power source based on power load information input via the first network, and

the computer comprising:

a receiver configured to receive the control information transmitted from the server; and

25 a controller configured to start supplying power from the portable power source based on the information, received from the receiver, indicating the

computer is to be supplied power from the portable power source.

16. A system according to claim 15, wherein the server is connected to a power company via the first 5 network, and the power load information is transmitted from the power company to the server.

17. A system according to claim 15, wherein the computer further comprising:

an external power supply input portion configured 10 to receive power from the power company, and the controller controls supplying power to the computer from the external power supply input portion based on the control information, received from the server via the receiver, indicating that the computer is to be 15 supplied power from the external power supply input portion.

18. A system according to claim 17, wherein the computer further comprising: a timer configured to maintain time, wherein the control information includes 20 a start time information indicating a time that the controller starts supplying power to the computer from the portable battery, and the controller supplying power from the portable battery when the time reaches to the start time.

25 19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the control information includes end time information indicating the time that the controller stops supplying

power to the computer from the portable power source, and the controller responsive to said end time information for stopping the supply of power to the computer from the portable power source and starting to supply power to the computer from the external power supply input portion when the time reaches to the end time.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the controller charges the portable power source based on the control information, received from the server via the receiver, wherein the control information includes portable power source charge information indicating charging the portable power source when the computer is supplied power from the external power supply input portion.

15 21. A system according to claim 15, wherein said portable power supply comprises a battery.

22. A system according to claim 6, wherein said battery is located internally of said electronic apparatus.

25 23. A power supply control method in an electronic apparatus which comprises a communication device for communicating with an external device, a battery, and an external power supply input unit for receiving supply of a commercial power supply, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the external device via the

communication device, information indicating the electronic apparatus is to be supplied power from the battery; and

5 supplying power to the electronic apparatus from the battery based on the received information.

24. A power management method in a server which communicates with a computer, comprising the steps of: receiving power load information transmitted from a power company;

10 determining information indicating that the computer is to be supplied power from a battery contained in the computer based on the received power load information; and

transmitting the determined information.

15 25. A power management method comprising: in a server which communicates with a plurality of computers, performing the steps of:

20 performing at least one of (1) receiving power load information transmitted from a power company, (2) determining the power load information based on a time of day and time of year, and (3) determining the power load information based on ambient temperature;

25 determining information indicating that the plurality of computers are to be supplied power from a second power source contained within each of the plurality of computers based on the power load information;

determining a plurality of groups of computers from among said plurality of computers;

transmitting the determined information to each of said plurality of groups of computers; and

5 in each computer within said plurality of groups of computers, performing the steps of;

receiving said determined information; and

based on said determined information, switching a power supply which serves to power said computer from an AC supply to said second power source contained 10 therein.

26. The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said determined information includes a time period associated with each of said plurality of groups, and 15 each of said plurality of computers within each group performs said switching step at a time dictated by said time period.

27. The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said determined information includes a single time period for all of said plurality of groups, and each of said plurality of computers within each group performs said switching step at a time dictated by said time period and an offset time stored within each of said plurality of groups.

25 28. The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said server receives an indication of current ambient temperature and selects a pattern data based on said

ambient temperature and time of day and time of year.

29. The method as recited in claim 25, wherein
said determined information includes information
directing said plurality of groups of computers to
5 perform one of: (1) switch to said AC power and charge
said second power source; and (2) switch to said AC
power but not charge said second power source.